

♦The Lamoine Quarterly♦

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Huge Granite Sculpture To Call Lamoine Home

(Lamoine) - For weeks the dust flew, the chiseling tools and grinders whirred, and a chunk of granite was transformed from mere rock to the largest (and heaviest) art donation ever to come to Lamoine. German sculptor Roland Mayer crafted the piece. The finished result is difficult to describe in the written word –it’s best seen in person or in picture.

While the artist worked his magic, a dedicated group was busy raising money to make sure the work could be located in town. Those who followed the signs, saw the “thermometer” fill to overflowing in August as the \$8,000 needed was far exceeded during a number of events.

The sculpture also served as an educational experience. Youngsters from the Lamoine Consolidated School were bussed to the Schoodic Education and Research Center to meet with Mayer and look over the work. Fifth Grader Danny Morren pronounced it “cool”.

The sculpture will be placed at Lamoine State Park, possibly as early as November. Some significant site work has to be performed first—the sculpture weighs many tons, and will sit on a concrete base at a location that will not require the park entrance fee to be paid in order to view it.

The plan is to have a dedication party late next spring to celebrate the piece. The sculpture committee will be working on

an appropriate program to which all will be invited. Plans will be announced in the April 2010 *Lamoine Quarterly* and posted on the town’s website.

Lamoine was one of six communities to receive a sculpture. Other

works will be placed on public lands in Bar Harbor, Franklin, Gouldsboro, Machias, and Deer Isle/Stonington. Seven other communities received sculptures in 2007. (*Acknowledgements on page 3*)



“Dialogue” Arrives Soon

Standing in front of Lamoine’s donation named “Dialogue” from the Schoodic Sculpture Symposium at the closing ceremonies in September are (standing, l-r) Tom Spruce, Gordon Donaldson, Lee Trenholm, Lucia Michielli, Valerie Marshall, Sculptor Roland Mayer, Denis Bouffard, Cynthia Donaldson, Eric Hartman (kneeling l-r) Paul Marshall, Monica Moeller and Diane Fehrenbach.

Former Selectman & Treasurer Remember Town

(Lamoine) - Allen and Leurene Hodgkins served Lamoine for many years. He was a Selectmen for several terms, she was the town’s treasurer for six years in the 1970’s. They also had a successful dental practice, both here and in Alaska. Both lived well into their 90’s, Allen passing away in 1995 and Leurene in 2006. Before their passing, the couple set up a trust fund with several hundred thousand dollars in it. The town just found out about it this year following the passing of Leurene’s 2nd husband, Harlan.

Bar Harbor Bank & Trust called the town office this past spring to report that part of the Hodgkins estate included monies in trust, the interest from which would be sent to the town for use on public facilities and parks. There are some stipulations—the fund first has to reach \$350,000, and some of the interest earned has to be reinvested with the fund. A special town meeting in July voted in favor of accepting the funds, realizing it may take a long time for the fund to reach the minimum distribution level.

A few weeks later, the Maine Community Foundation contacted the town office to report that a scholarship fund established by Mr. & Mrs. Hodgkins had been established and the interest on \$400,000 would be available to distribute

as scholarships to college students who were associated with the Lamoine School system and recently graduated from high schools associated with Lamoine. The Foundation’s request was whether the Selectmen wished to administer this fund. The Board of Selectmen swiftly voted in favor, and work is under way to establish an application and review process. That should be finalized sometime in October. Even though interest income is down, a 1-percent return on the scholarship fund would yield about \$4,000 per year for scholarship. Watch the town’s website for details.



The Full View

Mail Collection Box Removal Halted

(Lamoine) - A swift and well stated public outcry persuaded the US Postal Service to keep Lamoine’s only secure public mailbox in place. A notice appeared without warning on the mailbox in front of the town hall the weekend of September 12th stating the box would be removed ten days later. A check with the postmaster in Ellsworth on Monday discovered that low mail volumes were behind the initial decision to remove the box. He urged the public to comment on the decision, and the town office went into full notification gear, sending out an e-mail to folks on the town’s e-mail list and soliciting comments, either directly to the postmaster or to the town office for collection.

They were swift, and less than 24-hours after the message went out, a decision was made to spare the post office box.

Several years ago townspeople petitioned the post office for the blue collection box and it was finally installed. Several writers said they rely on the box to avoid the 10-mile round trip to Ellsworth for secure mailing. Vandalism to rural mailboxes have many people concerned about leaving mail in them for any length of time. Had the decision not been reversed, town officials would have pointed out there was virtually no expense to pick up the mail during regular rural delivery times.

Eel Grass Restoration

By Carol Korty

(Lamoine) The Lamoine Conservation Commission is pleased that its efforts have brought about a working relationship with MDI Bio Lab's eel grass restoration project. Eel grass beds are critical nurseries for young lobsters, mussels, and small fish. When these beds are compromised, so are the populations of other marine species and the sustainable harvesting of them.

Dr. Jane Disney and her colleague, Dr. George Kiddeer of MDI Biological Laboratory, have been working for several years to monitor eel grass beds and re-plant decimated areas. Much work has been done along the shores of MDI. On August 11th, members of Lamoine's Girl Scout Troop, LCC members, and a handful of interested residents joined the Bio Lab team in kayaks to survey and report GIS locations of eel grass between the State Park and Berry Cove. Having volunteers collecting data on the Lamoine side of the Narrows provides important

information about the resources feeding Frenchman Bay.

This fall, Mr. Chris James, 8th Grade teacher at Lamoine Consolidated School, will

work with Dr. Disney to incorporate a study of eel grass into our middle school science curriculum. Our students will be participating in a program funded by the National Science Foundation called "Eelgrasses in Classes", involving hands on cultivation of eel grass in classroom tanks, field trips to the Lamoine shore, and participation in an Youth Eelgrass Summit at MDI Biological Laboratory in late January.



In Search of Eel Grass

Molly Miller, and intern with the MDI Biological Laboratory and Lamoine Girl Scout Emily Rose help survey eel grass this summer.

Planning Board Back At Full Strength

(Lamoine) - Selectmen have appointed Donald Bamman of Orchard Lane to an open alternate seat on Lamoine's Planning Board. Bamman, a professional appraiser, takes the place of Melody Havey who retired from the Planning Board when her term expired at the end of June. Bamman's first meeting will be in October.

Planning Board Action

(Lamoine) - The Planning Board has been relatively quiet over the summer. A subdivision submitted by Rebecca Joy awaits further information before it can be considered complete. Doug Gott & Sons has submitted applications for several gravel pit permits, including a proposed new pit area.

Developers Tim Ring and Kevin Barbee won approval for reconfiguration of lots in the Marlboro Woods subdivisions off Partridge Cove Road. The Board approved a permit for Barbara Anton to hold Yoga classes at her Seal Point Road home.

Permit Activity Picks Up a Bit

(Lamoine) - The number of construction permits issued in 2009 continues to lag well behind previous years, but September saw an increase in housing starts after a slow summer. Code Enforcement Officers Dennis Ford and Michael Jordan issued the following permits:

| Nbr | Name | Project |
|-----|-------------|-------------------|
| 19 | Mike Grey | Residence |
| 20 | Tom Ellis | Residence, Garage |
| 21 | Chas Tozier | Addition |
| 22 | Veda Ames | Deck |
| 23 | A. Ashmore | Deck |
| 24 | Carol Mason | Garage |
| 25 | S. Bachman | Steps to Shore |
| 26 | A. Colman | Car Port |
| 27 | E. McMillen | Shed |
| 28 | L. Trenholm | Shed |
| 29 | R. Willard | Sign |
| 30 | Brett Jones | Car Port |
| 31 | W. Wright | Residence |
| 32 | D. Jewell | Residence |
| 33 | D. Dennison | Sheds |
| 34 | R. Tilden | Hay Barn |
| 35 | H. Fenton | Garage |

Clam Diggers Organize Regionally

(Lamoine) - At low tide, Jim Norris watches people make a living from his home on Marlboro Beach. Now retired from the telephone company, Norris has been trying his hand at clamming and observed that the area has a pretty good supply of two things; clams, and out-of-town diggers. The Frenchman Bay area was one of a very few in Maine that was not closed by Red Tide this summer. It's also one of the very few that lacks local regulation, and diggers from up and down the coast descended here without fear of local restriction, putting locals at an economic disadvantage.

Norris and several others with blessings of neighboring towns are working to develop a regional effort to regulate shellfishing, and cooperation has been fantastic. Ellsworth, Hancock, Franklin, Sullivan, Trenton, and possibly

Sorrento are considering the regional ordinance and meetings are being held periodically with the Department of Marine Resources to do it right.

The Selectmen appointed Norris, clam digger Paul Davis, and Marine Biology student Jennifer Reynolds as Lamoine's local representatives on ordinance development. They hope to present an ordinance for enactment at the 2010 town meeting.

There are many issues the committee members are dealing with – most of them to do with enforcement and cooperation. Hiring warden staff to patrol the flats is an expensive undertaking. Presumably most of the funding would be through license sales. How to patrol such a large expanse of flats will also be a challenge. The first ordinance draft came out in September.

GET WET Goes New England

(Lamoine) - The GET WET! project will continue in our school and Ellsworth High School this winter, as it has for the past three years in cooperation with the George Mitchell Center for Environmental and Watershed Research at UMaine. This program was designed to raise awareness about the quality of our drinking water and teach scientific process for testing samples brought from home for iron, conductivity, chloride, hardness, pH, and nitrate. The results provide valuable data to enable us to monitor the state of our ground water. The effectiveness of the project has lead to the Mitchell Center's success in securing a large grant to expand the program to many schools in New England. Look for an expanded article on this exciting development in January's Lamoine Quarterly.

Conservation Award Nominees Sought

(Lamoine) Each year the Lamoine Conservation Commission recognizes a Lamoine resident or someone with significant ties to Lamoine for either:

- 1) activities that benefit the community and protect and preserve natural resources or;
- 2) stewardship and conservation of the Lamoine environment.

Anyone can make a nomination for the Lamoine Conservation Award. The deadline for nominations is the November 11th meeting of the Conservation Commission. There is a nomination form available from the Conservation Commission, but nominations can be in any form. A presentation is made just before Town Meeting each year.

Many Deserve Thanks for Sculpture

By Monica Moeller

(Lamoine) - In the last few days before the closing ceremony the sculptors made their final cuts and smoothed the final curves. On Sept. 12, the works stood in the courtyard at SERC like they had just been delivered. The closing ceremony was an opportunity to say thank you to the sculptors and also to say farewell. They are leaving us their creative vision captured in wonderful works of stone. They take away the memories of 6 weeks on the coast of Maine and the communities that welcomed them and made them feel at home.

The Lamoine Sculpture Committee would like to thank the townspeople of Lamoine for their generous support of the 2009 Schoodic International Sculpture Symposium and our sculptor, Roland Mayer. Special thanks go to:

- * Bangor Hydro Electric Company
- * Paul MacQuinn of MacQuinn Gravel
- * Janice and Ron West
- * Lamoine General Store
- * Friends of Lamoine State Park
- * Lamoine Community Arts
- * The many volunteers who helped with fund-raising
- * The many volunteers who provided meals for the sculptors.

If you had a chance to visit while they were working, you, too, contributed to the spirit of the symposium. The completed works are still on display at SERC for the next few weeks as site preparation is completed and plans are made for their permanent installation. We will post information on the siting at Lamoine State Park once installation plans are finalized.

Selectmen Explore Economic Development

(Lamoine) - The Board of Selectmen explored some goals they wished to accomplish this year, and many of them came back to the ability to attract low impact business to town. The idea tied in with another major goal—finding alternative revenue sources in order to keep property taxes reasonable.

Selectmen Richard Fennelly Jr. noted that development seems to be spreading from Ellsworth down Route 3 to Trenton and Route 1 to Hancock, and not into Lamoine. He suggested that the undeveloped area between Buttermilk Road and Douglas Highway might be an area to explore, as it's located behind the new Wal-Mart in Ellsworth. He also said that ordinances seem to discourage

business development in town.

Selectmen invited Ellsworth's Economic Development Director Janet Toth and Roxanne Jobe of Eastern Maine Development Corporation to meet with them in September. They told the Board that the first order of business was to identify what businesses are already operating in Lamoine. That task should be complete in October, and it's not as easy as it might seem. Most Lamoine businesses are run out of homes with no exterior advertising displays to identify them as such.

After identifying businesses in town, Selectmen hope to hold a forum with a neutral facilitator to gather ideas on how to move forward with development ideas.

Personnel News

(Lamoine) - You may see a different face around the Lamoine Transfer Station from time to time. **Harvey Griffin** has been picked by transfer station manager Bill Fennelly to fill in when Fennelly takes the occasional weekend off. Mr. Griffin's family is originally from Lamoine, but he currently lives in Trenton.

The town has a new Road Commissioner. **Michael Jordan** has taken over the post from Dennis Ford. Jordan is also the town's Deputy Code Enforcement Officer, an Alternate Member of the Planning Board, and an elected Tax Assessor, not to mention a captain with the Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department. Selectmen are expected to approve an updated job description in early October.

The job description for Administrative Assistant **Stu Marckoon** has been expanded to reflect the reality of the many functions he performs. Most of the additions have to do with personnel hiring, scheduling and supervision. The Board also approved of adding responsibility for operation of the Cable TV channel, the town website, and production of *The Lamoine Quarterly*.

Eagle Scout Project to benefit School

(Lamoine) - An Eagle Scout badge may be in Will Dickey's future, and a new recycling center at the school may be the result. Mr. Dickey, a freshman at Maine Maritime Academy, outlined his plans to rebuild the cardboard recycling receptacle at the school over the winter. He told Selectmen at a meeting in July the project has received approval from the Boy Scouts of America.

Dickey is the son of Bill and Tammy Dickey of the Shore Road.



Quilt Winner

Jill McDonald (middle) won a hand made quilt in the Lamoine Historical Society drawing in September and picked it up from Carol Korty (l) and Edna Coyne

Cell Tower Approved Construction Soon

(Lamoine) - Some cellular telephone users in Lamoine may get a nice Christmas present—a signal! The Planning Board has approved Verizon Wireless's (VZW) permits to build a tower on land near the former town landfill. A representative from VZW told the Board that construction should be complete by late December.

Few issues came up during the public hearing. Neighbors were assured by VZW engineers that the signal from the tower would not interfere with their cell carrier. The Planning Board was shown that exposure to radiation from the transmission antennae was about 5% of the maximum recommended level. The Board did require that any lighting on the tower be shielded from below so as to not create a flash on neighboring property.

Selectmen and VZW agreed to a lease agreement earlier this year. An amendment to the lease to provide for a 2nd access point if needed should be finalized by both parties in October.

Leases Proposed For Town Properties

(Lamoine) - Selectmen are currently exploring lease agreements on two town owned properties, neither of which will bring in huge revenues at first. At the land purchased from Nate and Marti Anderson several years ago Jennifer Reynolds has approached the Selectmen about setting up a semi-mobile retail seafood stand. Town meeting gave approval for Selectmen to enter a lease, and the proposed document was being reviewed by Miss Reynolds in late September. She hopes to have her local and state permits in place and be in business by May, 2010. Reynolds is a Marine Biology Major at the University of Maine in Machias and lives close to the Lamoine Beach Road location.

The other lease agreement would formalize the arrangement where the Frenchman Bay Riders Snowmobile Club is located on Blunt's Pond. The clubhouse, a log A-frame, has been on town owned land since 1993. Prior to that the land belonged to Dr. Benjamin Whitcomb.

The snowmobile club inquired about enlarging the parking area at the clubhouse. The land is located within the Shoreland Zone and enlargement of the parking area requires Planning Board approval. Since the club did not own the land, permission to alter it needed to be delegated. Town Attorney Tony Beardsley advised the Selectmen that no town meeting authority was needed to enter a lease agreement with the snowmobile club. The proposed lease would run for 10-years with no charge to the snowmobile club for use of the land in return for the club plowing Bloomfield Park in the winter.

Town Gets Federal Help with Roads

(Lamoine) - The Federal and State Emergency Management Agencies will help pay for some road repairs and upgrades this fall, while the town budget will absorb other projects before winter starts.

The biggest project (and the one requiring mounds of paperwork) is the addition of a 2nd culvert at a stream crossing under Needles Eye Road. In recent years that stream has flooded the road at least a half dozen times during heavy rain storms. The 2nd culvert should alleviate the extra water flow coming from a beaver dam area upstream.

Several fixups were needed following a heavy rain storm in June that washed out numerous areas. FEMA toured the town and determined about \$14,000 worth of work was needed. FEMA will provide funding for most of that amount including funding for final fixups to Buttermilk Road, Mill Road, Needles Eye Road, Raccoon Cove Road and Shore Road.

Road Commissioner Michael Jordan and Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon prepared a priority list of urgent repairs for Selectmen who approved of assigning the work as needed. Contractors are being contacted to perform the projects that are the highest priority to address road safety concerns.

Belanger Appointed to Parks Commission

(Lamoine) - Wolf Run resident **Susan Belanger** has been appointed to a 3-year term on the Lamoine Parks Commission. An employee of Jackson Laboratory, Belanger expressed enthusiastic interest in helping maintain and advocate for Lamoine's Parks. She replaces **Sara O'Connell** who stepped down from the Commission after her term expired in June.

There remains a vacancy for an alternate position on the Parks Commission. People interested in serving can contact Chair Kerry Galeaz (667-1277) or the Town Office (667-2242) to express interest or get more information about the commission's functions.



Buttermilk Road Paving
Crews from Lane Construction put down a layer of fresh pavement on Buttermilk Road in July

Park Kiosks & Grills Coming

(Lamoine) - The Lamoine Parks Commission worked hard in the spring getting Bloomfield Park ready for the summer, and members pretty much took the summer off from the field work. The park next to Blunt's Pond is looking very nice, with underbrush cleared out and chipped up.

The Commission's next big task is construction of kiosks for Lamoine Beach Park and Bloomfield Park. After several years of planning and design, the signs are very close to reality. A design company in Ellsworth has put together the final product and shipped it to a special sign manufacturer in Canada for final production of a pair of durable and attractive three-sided kiosks. If all goes well, those kiosks will be installed this fall at Lamoine Beach and Bloomfield Park.

Also awaiting installation are new grills for Lamoine Beach Park. Special bases have been constructed for mounting the grills, and those bases await installation in the ground. The Parks Commission purchased special trash cans lids to give the receptacles a more attractive look. Those should be in place next spring.



Not what it's cracked up to be...
A crew from Annseal fills in cracks on the Seal Point Road which should greatly extend its life.

Cautionary Signs Installed

(Lamoine) - Credit Lamoine's Animal Control Officer Mike Arsenault with being a good, and persuasive neighbor. Mike's next door neighbor is visually impaired and they approached the Board of Selectmen with a request to install signs on Buttermilk Road to indicate that motorists may encounter the gentleman and his guide dog. Mike said the newly paved section of Buttermilk Road seemed to create a speedway for motorists. Selectmen were a bit hesitant at first after seeing a lot of information gathered from other transportation agencies around the nation. The research indicates that advisory signs do little to slow down speeding traffic and may create a false sense of safety.

After listening to the request in person, Selectmen opted to purchase and install the signs and that was completed in August. The signs are on either side of the gentleman's residence and are extremely reflective and carry a speed limit reminder (45 MPH) underneath.

Cable TV Snafu to be Addressed

(Lamoine) - The extremely high tech computerized Cable TV Channel system has a major flaw—humans operate it. The system can be programmed for a week at a time, and if a live program is not "unscheduled", the cameras and sound will automatically come on at the same time a week later. That happened in August when the Historical Society had a presentation on one Wednesday night that aired live. The next Wednesday night the Board of Assessors was meeting to finish up some work and the cameras came on without their knowledge. No audience was in attendance at the meeting, but apparently there were some viewers.

The Cable TV committee met to discuss the situation in September and

hopes to be able to install an "on air" light to indicate when the cameras are live on the air. The technology to do that is quite tricky and the company that installed the system is being consulted.

The CTV committee also approved of buying a 2nd field camera to use at town meetings and other events not held at the town office to give more of a variety of camera angles in production. The ad-hoc committee (which anyone is welcome to join) has approached the historical society about possibly producing some programming highlighting the town's rich history. The committee also hopes to involve school students in more productions utilizing video editing software on their laptop computers.

State Park Friends Dissolve

(Lamoine) - The Friends of Lamoine State Park voted to dissolve this past summer. The group had dwindled down to just a few members and little was accomplished other than maintaining a bank account for non state funded projects at Lamoine State Park.

Park manager Jay McIntosh said the state now allows the parks to sell firewood and T-shirts and put the proceeds into what's called an enterprise fund which is available for the same purposes as the projects the Friends group had sponsored. The group had formed in the late 1990's. A notice of dissolution is being filed with the Secretary of State, and funds disbursed to the park enterprise fund.

Fire Department Responds to the Dangerous, the Tragic and the Bizarre

(Lamoine) - It was a busy summer for the Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department with a wide variety of responses, and at least two lives saved.

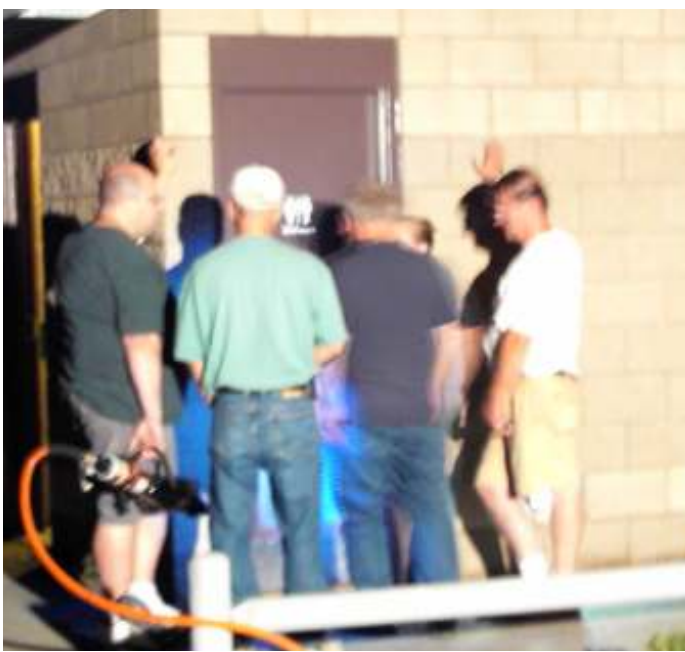
The rescue boat was dispatched to an area off Lamoine Beach after a vicious storm roared through the area on August 7th. Two kayakers were reported in trouble after gusts pushed them out to sea. After a brief search Capt. Brett Jones and Asst. Chief Stu Marckoon located Nancy Joseph and Paula Phillips who were exhausted from paddling. They were brought back safely to shore, along with their rented kayaks. The department also responded to a water rescue call at the Hancock/Sullivan Bridge, but the situation was safely

resolved before arrival.

The department responded to a pair of serious motor vehicle accidents out of town. In Hancock, the LVFD handled traffic control and an oil spill when a truck went down an embankment by Kilkenney Stream. In Trenton the department assisted with extrication of people trapped in a head on collision that claimed the life of a New Jersey woman on Labor Day.

Then, there were the strange calls. In July, a Lamoine Beach Road man called the fire station on meeting night to report his skylight had broken and rain was pouring in. Volunteers put a tarp over the roof and removed broken glass shards. In late August, also on meeting night, LVFD was called to Lamoine State Park to try to open a shower door after the deadbolt lock malfunctioned. Firefighters ended up cutting the door's ventilation grate off and the woman (she was dressed) who'd been trapped for nearly an hour was able to scamper out.

Three days later, the department fleet rolled to South Birchlawn Drive after a resident reported her smoke alarms going off and the building full of smoke. Fearing the worst, Ellsworth was started for mutual aid. First arriving firefighter Mike Jordan quickly found the problem—a hot dog left on the stove and forgotten had burned to a crisp. The charred frank was removed, fans set up and the woman was able to return home that evening.



Ready for Extreme Measures, if needed
Firefighters have the rescue cutters handy to open a malfunctioning shower door at the State Park

One Truck Sold, New Truck Under Construction

(Lamoine) - Want to buy a fire truck? The first brand-new truck the town ever purchased, a 1976 FMC Pumper, is up for sale, soon to be replaced with a 2009 Ford Brush Truck. The new truck, which will cost roughly \$87,000 should be in service in late October.

The fire department has sold its old brush truck, a 1986 Chevy pickup that was purchased from military surplus in 1995 and fixed up to fight brush fires and for rapid response to fire scenes. The Dennys River Fire Department which covers the Town of Dennysville and several unorganized territories in Washington County purchased the truck for \$7,500. They plan to use it to cover incidents on the former Calais Branch rail line that has been converted to trails.

The new truck is being constructed by K&T Environmental Equipment in Island Falls. It will feature compressed air foam capability and a full cadre of brush fire and emergency scene equipment. Bar Harbor Bank & Trust loaned the town \$35,000 toward the purchase.



Still for sale is the yellow truck on the left, a 1976 FMC Pumper. The red pickup on the right was sold to the Dennys River Fire Department

Town Hall Treated for Infestation

(Lamoine) - The critter rattling around the basement at the Lamoine Town Hall was the deciding factor. Most likely a rat (but possibly a rabbit that got in a broken window), it was making quite a racket on the heating vents, and employees were a bit on edge.

Selectmen granted permission to contact an exterminator to help remove whatever might be in the building and to ensure that other creatures would stay

outside. Modern Pest Control supplied a couple of estimates for treatments—the one-time only option was chosen, and mouse/rat traps were set up in the basement, in the back room, and outside the building.

The company also treated the grounds for ants—they had made several hills on the Veterans Memorial walk—and sprayed the exterior of the building for spiders. So far, no new critters!

Fire Department Auction Deemed Success

(Lamoine) - The annual fire department auction held in late August was another successful fundraiser for the department. Led by auctioneer Chas Hare of Stockton Springs, the department was able to raise about \$4,500 in this year's auction. Donations were down a bit this year—businesses had difficulty donating as many goods and services due to the national economy. And the general feeling was that people had less to spend, so watched for bargains. Furniture did not sell well this year, however lobster and gravel did. Restaurant Gift Certificates and a membership to the Downeast Family YMCA drew heavy bidding. In the end, little was left over, and folks came away with some very good deals.

Money raised from the auction and the annual dinner and other fund raisers is used to help purchase equipment and training. The fire department is contributing \$20,000 toward the purchase of the new brush truck (see article above, right). Past purchases have included rescue cutters, the rescue boat, and new, longer lasting airpacks.

LVFD Dinner Is October 17th

(Lamoine) - The Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department will serve up its annual clam chowder fund raising dinner on Saturday, October 17th beginning at 5PM. The menu includes chowder, beans, casseroles, rolls, beverage and pie. Tickets will be sold door-to-door the Sunday before and are available at the door. Cost is \$6.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children. The annual dinner is one of the social highlights of the year in town, and folks are encouraged to arrive early to ensure a seat at the first sitting.



Three Herricks, No Waiting
(l-r) David Herrick Jr., David Sr., and Albert Herrick serve up the clam chowder and beans at the Firefighters' Dinner in 2008

Property Tax Rate Rises Again

(Lamoine) - Lamoine’s Board of Assessors set the 2009/10 property tax rate at 9.7 mills, meaning property owners are paying \$9.70 per \$1,000.00 of valuation. The rate is a .7 mill increase from the 2008/09 tax rate, or up 7.8%

Tax bills totaling \$2,396,230.29 were mailed out in late August, with the first half due on October 31, 2009 and the 2nd payment due by February 28, 2010. The tax commitment was up 10.38% from the previous year, or nearly \$226,000. The tax commitment is based directly on what funding is approved by the town meeting votes, the Regional School Unit budget, and the Hancock County budget.

The biggest factor influencing the tax commitment increase was a severe drop in anticipated municipal revenues. The economic downturn meant a lower

projected interest return from investment accounts, lower projected excise tax collections, and nearly no surplus revenues to draw from. That resulted in a revenue reduction from the 2008/09 budget of about \$130,000. The increased tax commitment from the municipal side of the budget was about \$135,000. Expenditures approved for the non-school portion of the budget actually decreased by about \$8,000 from the previous year’s approved amount.

The town’s overall valuation increased by roughly \$5.6 million dollars. A good portion of that increase came from the new Bangor Hydro Electric Company transmission lines and poles that run through North Lamoine. The total taxable value was up 2.3%. The state’s valuation of Lamoine increased 6.52%

Do You Have Your Homestead Exemption

(Lamoine) - The state’s homestead exemption program provides a pretty good tax saving for qualified residents, yet not everyone who qualifies has taken advantage of the program.

This year’s program reduced a homestead property value by \$12,350, which saved \$119.79 on each qualified property. The amount of reduction is lower than the state maximum due to the town’s valuation falling to less than 90% of what the state tax assessor says the value should be.

FD, School Lot Survey Set

(Lamoine) - Selectmen have picked Herrick and Salsbury to conduct a full survey of the fire station lot that will be set aside from the school lot transferred to RSU 24 effective July 1st. The survey will show where the buildings sit in relation to the proposed property lines.

It is known the new boundary will create a non-conforming situation for both the school and fire station. It’s expected the Planning Board will issue a denial of the plan, and the Board of Appeals will be enlisted to issue a variance based on a state imposed hardship.

No Credit Cards Yet

(Lamoine) - Despite a change in state law allowing municipalities to pass along fees for credit and debit card use, the town is still not able to accept cards. A check with our bank found that while it’s possible to install a machine, the likely convenience charge for a card transaction could approach \$8! Apparently a variable charge cannot be imposed to recover the merchant fees imposed by the credit card companies at this time.

For now, the town office accepts check and cash. On-line boat registrations, though, do accept credit cards. That does not run through the town’s system.

RSU Alters Cash Flow

(Lamoine) - A couple of the \$175,000 monthly checks to RSU 24 were a bit late this summer as the change to a new school funding mechanism significantly impacted the town’s cash flow. When Lamoine had its own school department, summer school bills were relatively low, as school was not in session. Now, with the RSU system, the payments are due in 12 equal installments, the first three of which are due before property taxes start to roll in. Usually the treasury would not dip below \$300,000 in the summer. This year, the town investment balance was down to \$195,000 before the tax bills went out. Early payments assured the obligation was met, nearly on time.

The Budget Committee will discuss having taxes come due on August 31 instead of October 31, giving a 6-month period between payment due dates. Other ideas such as delaying paving until the following spring will help save on cash flow as well. The good news is, some of the payments in the winter will be far less than previous years winter bills.

Returnable Program Benefits Paid

(Lamoine) - The program to have returnable bottles dropped off at the Lamoine Transfer Station cashed in for civic groups is working quite smoothly. Lamoine Redemption picks up the donated bottles and sends a check to the town office, which in turns sends payment to the benefiting organization. So far, the following has been paid:

| Month | Beneficiary | Amount |
|--------|----------------------------|----------|
| Jan | THAW Fund | \$251.15 |
| Apr | 8th Grade Class | \$188.60 |
| May | Special Children's Friends | \$93.90 |
| June | Frenchman Bay Riders | \$129.35 |
| July | Cheerleaders | \$332.95 |
| August | PATRONS | \$409.35 |

Applications are available for qualified non-profit organizations serving Lamoine on the town’s website. The proceeds from each month go to a different applicant on a first come-first served basis.

School Advisory Committee Filled

(Lamoine) - Selectmen have filled out the Local School Advisory Committee (LAC) to assist RSU 24 representative Jon Morren with local issues. Named to the committee were University of Maine professor Gordon Donaldson, Lutheran Minister Priscilla Hukki, and former elected school committee members Tammy Dickey and Bonnie Marckoon. Mr. Morren will serve as the chair of the LAC, and principal Val Perkins is the secretary of the committee. Voters approved the local advisory committee ordinance earlier this year, giving Selectmen appointment authority. The LAC has yet to hold its first meeting, but is likely to do so in the next few months.



Memorial Day 2009
Members of Cub Scout Pack 88 helped mark Memorial Day in Lamoine in a brief ceremony, and got to meet Steve Holt who was in town to visit his family and came to the Veterans Memorial for the event.

Jina's Gym Project Started

(Lamoine) - With about \$200,000 raised in 4-years, the Jina's Gym dream has started to become a reality, though somewhat scaled back. With a non-profit corporation formed to protect the raised funds from being co-mingled with funds turned over to RSU 24, the corporation decided to perform some major renovations at the existing gym.

Before school started for the fall, a major sound proofing and insulation effort began on the ceiling of the gym. The tiles have now been completed, and the walls painted a brighter white, which, with the new lighting installed as part of the overall school renovation makes it a much brighter facility.

During the winter school break, a brand new gym floor will be installed, along with a brand new score board. Speakers have been purchased and mounted in the gym so that amplification will be easily accomplished, and folks can better hear what's being said at town meeting, graduation, and many other functions that take place at the gym. The effort for an improved



Playground On the Move

Volunteers move components of the playground at the Lamoine School to a new location. Helping move the slide and bars are Matt Jordan, Brett Jones, Mike Jordan, Perry Fowler, Dean Francazio and Jay Fowler (in the excavator) Lamoine's PATRONS group funded the project.

facility began following the death of Jina Haslam in 2005, one week after her 8th grade graduation. Tragedy struck the family again as the acoustic tile project was under way. Jina's father, Bobby Haslam, died suddenly on September 2, 2009. He was 52-years old, and leaves behind a daughter, three sons and his wife Patti.



Bobby Haslam holds his granddaughter Riley Jina shortly after she was born in 2005

Henry Finishes Fourth in Speech Contest

(Lamoine) - Kelly Henry is not your typical shy middle schooler. Having won the Eastern Maine competition in the Modern Woodmen of American speech contest, the 7th grade student finished 4th in the national contest. Her speech which highlighted her mother Mary's efforts to establish a home for women recovering from substance abuse was well received by judges of the insurance company's contest. She gave a presentation to the Board of Selectmen, and the meeting was used by the company as an opportunity to present a

plaque to Kelly for her accomplishments.

Asked by the Selectmen if she had a future goal that might employ her public speaking skills, Kelly answered that she thought she might like to be the President of the United States someday.



Flanked by her grandparents, Kelly Henry holds a bouquet while Mom Mary has her plaque next to her sister Robyn and Dad David

Vital Statistics

(Lamoine) - Two births are reported over the summer. **Logan Dane Gillespie** made his debut on July 26, 2009 at Maine Coast Memorial Hospital in Ellsworth. **Amelia Jane Ashmore** was born August 14, 2009 at Maine Coast Memorial.

Four marriage certificates were recorded. **David Hood and Karen Hatton** were married in Ellsworth on July 25th. **Stephen Roiphe and Lorin Petros** were married in Lincolnville on August 14th. **Aaron Burgus and Keegan Wardwell** were married August 29th in Bar Harbor. And **Travis Alley and Lydia Petell** got married on September 19th in Dedham. Several more intentions of marriage were filed in September at the Town Clerk's office.

Lamoine lost three residents. **Dale Ingalls** passed away on July 21st. He had lived on Partridge Cove Road. **Richard Hodgkins**, a life-long resident of Seal Point Road died on August 29th. Summer resident **Ellen McKinnon** died on July 22nd. Summer resident **Daphne McDonald** died suddenly on September 28th.



Amazing Swimmers

(l-r) Calleigh Weaver, Sam Alvarado and Isaac Weaver finished at the top of their divisions in the Echo Lake Swim in August. Photo by DEFY Coach Peter Weaver

Grange says Thanks!

The members of Lamoine Grange wish to express their sincere appreciation to the residents of Lamoine for their generous support of our Sunday Turkey dinners. We're happy to see so many local people among our patrons. Dinners support our Grange activities. The money raised this summer, added to the balance in our renovation fund, make it possible to finish replacing all 12 basement windows this fall. Keeping drafts, grit, and moisture out of the downstairs is a welcome upgrade.

Plays In November

(Lamoine) - Lamoine Community Arts presents Theater Fare, our fall production, November 6,7,8, at Lamoine Grange, will use the other half of those funds raised. You'll see 22 of your friends and neighbors on stage! Our largest cast plays in Terrance Rattigan's drama, Table Number Seven. Dorothy Parker's little comedy, Here We Are and George S. Kaufman's satire, The Still Alarm, will follow the intermission, which, of course, features tasty refreshments. Watch for details in later publicity.

LCA membership is open to all. We now have 40 + participants. You don't have to be an actor to be involved! There are many opportunities for getting involved with costumes, building, painting, gathering props, publicity, photography, on and on..... And we welcome ideas and work on other arts projects, such as music, visual arts, dance. Contact our officers for more information: Carol Korty 667-4441, Honeybee Heyman 667-4136, Fred Stocking 667-6564, or Rae Dumont 667-0554.

October 2009-Lamoine Schedule

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|------------------|-----|--|
| The town office is open on Saturdays from 8AM to Noon in October | | | | 1-7PM Selectmen | 2 | 3-Town Office Open 8am to Noon |
| 4 | 5 | 6-7PM Planning Board 7PM Fire Dept. | 7-7PM Assessors | 8 | 9 | 10-Town Office Open 8am to Noon |
| 11 | 12-Office Closed (Columbus Day) | 13-10AM MDI League of Towns 7PM Fire Dept | 14-7PM Conservation Cmsn | 15-7PM Selectmen | 16 | 17-Town Office Open 8am to Noon 5PM Fire Dept. Supper |
| 18 | 19-7PM Budget Cmte | 20-7PM Parks Cmsn 7PM Fire Dept. | 21-7PM Veterans Memorial Cmte. | 22 | 23 | 24-Town Office Open 8am to Noon |
| 25 | 26 | 27-7PM Fire Dept. | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31-Town Office Open 8am to Noon First Half Property Tax Due |

November 2009-Lamoine Schedule

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----------------------------------|---|--|--------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------|
| 1 | 2-10AM Absentee Ballot Processing | 3-10AM to 8PM Voting 7PM Fire Dept | 4-7PM Assessors | 5-7PM Selectmen | 6 | 7-Town Office Open 8am to Noon |
| 8 | 9-7PM Budget Committee | 10-7PM Planning Board 7PM Fire Dept | 11-Office Closed (Veterans Day) 7PM Conservation Cmsn | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17-7PM Parks Cmsn 7PM Fire Dept | 18 | 19-7PM Selectmen | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23-7PM Budget Committee | 24-7PM Fire Dept | 25 | 26-Office Closed, Thanksgiving | 27 | 28-Town Office Open 8am to Noon |
| 29 | 30 | Transfer Station winter hours (Friday 12-5, Saturday 8-5) begin November 6th. | | | | |

December 2009-Lamoine Schedule

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-------------------------------|--|--------------------------|------------------------------|---|---|
| | | 1-7PM Planning Board 7PM Fire Dept. | 2-7PM Assessors | 3-7PM Selectmen | 4 | 5-Town Office Open 8am to Noon |
| 6 | 7-7PM Budget Cmte. | 8-7PM Fire Dept | 9-7PM Conservation Cmsn. | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15-7PM Fire Dept 7PM Parks Cmsn. | 16 | 17-7PM Selectmen | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22-7PM Fire Dept | 23 | 24-Town Office Closing @ 1PM | 25-Office Closed, Transfer Station Closed (Christmas) | 26-Office Closed, Transfer Station Open 8am-5pm |
| 27 | 28-Transfer Station Open 12-5 | 29-7PM Fire Dept | 30 | 31 | 1-Office Closed, Transfer Station Open 12-5 | 2-Office Open 8am to Noon, Transfer Station Open 8-5. |

The Lamoine Quarterly
October 2009

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- Sculpture Done

Mailbox Saved

Clammers Unite

Cell Tower Approved

Road Grant OK'd

Fire Dept Supper

Taxes Rise 7.8%

Returnables Pay

Gym Project Starts

Speaker 4th in Nation

And Much, Much More!



Town of Lamoine
606 Douglas Highway
Lamoine, ME 04605